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REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE
ON 5/8/94

REC 6

DATE: March 22, 1967

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FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. Raupach
1 - Mr. Sullivan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The attached sets forth the results of an interview with Edward P. Morgan (former Bureau Inspector) on 3/20/67.

By way of background, during February, 1967, James J. Rowley, U. S. Secret Service, advised that Drew Pearson, contacted Chief Justice Warren concerning information in possession of Edward P. Morgan. The Chief Justice refused to see Morgan; however, it was determined Morgan alleged that former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy organized a group to go to Cuba to kill Castro. All of this group were killed or imprisoned except one person who escaped, and subsequently, after Castro learning of the plot, decided to utilize the same procedure to kill President Kennedy and that he hired Oswald to do the job. This information allegedly came from a client of Morgan's. Secret Service made an appointment to talk to Morgan; however, he never showed up.

On 3/17/67, Mr. Watson at the White House advised that President Johnson desired the FBI to interview Morgan concerning any knowledge he might have had concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

Morgan was interviewed on 3/20/67 by Washington Field Office Agents. Due to attorney-client relationship, Morgan would not identify the persons who furnished him information concerning the assassination. He stated his clients, while not directly involved in the assassination, had knowledge of the plot. Morgan alleges his clients were used by a Government Agency (obviously Central Intelligence Agency, CIA) to plot the assassination of Fidel Castro, and that Castro learned of the plot, and thereafter, dispatched teams of assassins to the U. S. for the purpose of assassinating President Kennedy. He said his clients were aware of the identity of some of these individuals, and he understood that two such individuals were in the State of New Jersey.

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Enclosures

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9/27/99

Morgan also stated that one of the clients he represented was a high type individual of the Catholic faith. When he queried this individual as to why he became involved in such a project as the assassination of Castro, his client indicated the project was so highly patriotically motivated that this overrode personal ethical or moral considerations.

During 1961, we conducted an investigation of a violation of Unauthorized Publication or Use of Communication Statute on the part of Arthur James Balletti, arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada, by local authorities on a wire tapping charge. Our investigation determined this involved Robert A. Maheu,* private detective, that coverage was instituted in behalf of CIA's efforts to obtain Cuban intelligence data through hoodlum element.

We checked with CIA and learned CIA was utilizing Maheu as an intermediary with Sam Giancana, relative to CIA's "dirty business" anti-Castro activities. On 5/22/61 we furnished the then Attorney General Kennedy a memorandum containing the rundown of CIA's involvement of this which involved Maheu who had been hired by CIA to approach Sam Giancana to have Castro assassinated at a cost of $150,000. On 5/9/62 Kennedy advised he had issued orders that CIA should never undertake such steps again without first checking with the Department of Justice.

This information is briefly set forth in the enclosure as it appears to relate to information in Morgan's possession. Since CIA furnished information on a strictly highly confidential "need-to-know" basis and requested that it be handled on a most restrictive basis, this is being set forth in the communications attached.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to Mrs. Stegall at the White House, the Attorney General, and James J. Rowley, U. S. Secret Service, enclosing a memorandum setting forth the information furnished by Morgan, and information received from CIA. The enclosures to these communications are classified Top Secret.

*former Special Agent

March 21, 1967

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

On the evening of March 20, 1967, Attorney Edward P. Morgan, 300 Farragut Building, Washington, D. C., furnished the following information relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

He advised that while this covered a wide range or field, it probably arose as the result of comments he made during conversations in which he suggested Lee Harvey Oswald was not the only person involved in the crime. He stated that he did have information pertaining to the assassination which he considered pertinent and relevant. He said it was necessary for him, in his capacity of attorney, to invoke the attorney-client privilege, since the information in his possession was derived as a result of that relationship. He added that it was still possible for his clients to be prosecuted. He pointed out that he was not stating or implying his clients were either directly or indirectly involved in the death of President Kennedy or could be prosecuted in this regard. However, they definitely face possible prosecution for a crime not related to the assassination of Kennedy. Due to their participation in this crime, his clients learned of information pertaining to the President's assassination. Mr. Morgan said he represented these clients on this specific matter. He did not elaborate on when they sought his legal counsel and he indicated he could not fulfill his responsibility and identify them. He said he gave considerable thought to finding some way to make this information available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but as yet had not come up with a solution. He considered a possible waiver from his clients but decided against this because the type of protection they needed was for some competent authority to grant them complete immunity, not only from prosecution but from the publicity that would surely follow. If in the future it becomes possible to overcome all legal obstacles, he will immediately make this information available to the Government and, more particularly, the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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He related that when he first heard the story from his clients he did not believe it, but conducted enough inquiry to satisfy himself that his clients had some basis in fact for their position and he felt they were telling the truth. He pointed out he represented substantial citizens, people who loved their country and had a high regard for the then President. If their story came out now, they would be damaged by the resultant publicity, and some prosecutor of the same type as District Attorney Garrison of New Orleans could conceivably attempt to initiate prosecution against them. At this point he noted that the charge against them might well be conspiracy to kill, which is a crime, and in the case of his clients the Statute of Limitations has not run.

In explaining this remark he pointed out that if he were a Government investigator assigned to unravel all facets of the assassination of President Kennedy, he would first concern himself with reading the newspaper articles dealing with the topic of a Castro plot. He said he would examine the Castro plot to determine precisely what bearing it had on the assassination of the President. He indicated the newspaper articles had considerable merit and were on the right track in regard to the theory of the assassination.

Without making any factual representations, and continuing to theorize, he went on to relate that his clients, whom he again characterized as respectable citizens, were called upon by a Governmental agency to assist in a project which was said to have the highest Governmental approval. The project had as its purpose the assassination of Fidel Castro, Premier of Cuba. Elaborate plans involving many people were made. These plans included the infiltration of the Cuban Government and the placing of informants in key posts within Cuba. The project almost reached fruition when Castro became aware of it and arrested a number of suspects. By pressuring captured suspects he was able to learn the full details of the plot against him and decided "if that was the way President Kennedy wanted it, he too could engage in the same tactics." Castro thereafter employed teams of individuals who were dispatched to the United States for the purpose of assassinating President Kennedy. Mr. Morgan further

explained that his clients (here noting that he, Morgan, was employed by more than one of those involved) obtained information concerning Castro's dispatch of these assassins from "feed back" furnished by sources close to Castro. Continuing, he said his clients were aware of the identity of some of the individuals who came to the United States for this purpose and he understood that two such individuals were now in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Morgan further noted that one of the clients he represented was a high type individual of the Catholic faith. Morgan said he queried him as to why a person with his high ethical standard had ever become involved in such a project as the assassination of Fidel Castro. The client indicated that his conscience bothered him; however, the project was so highly patriotically motivated that this, in his mind, overrode personal ethical or moral considerations. He further described how one client, when hearing the statement that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of President Kennedy, "laughs with tears in his eyes and shakes his head in apparent disagreement."

Mr. Morgan said if he were free of the attorney-client privilege to furnish full details, the information that he would be able to supply would not directly identify the alleged conspirators to kill President Kennedy. However, because of the project to kill Fidel Castro, those participating in the project whom he represents developed through feed back information that would identify Fidel Castro's counter-assassins in this country, who could very well be considered suspects in such a conspiracy. Morgan pointed out that from the information available to him from his clients he could not declare or conclude that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have committed this assassination alone.

Mr. Morgan pointed out that it was inconceivable to him that an agency of the Government which engages in the type of operations which he has described has not come forth to make this most important data available to the Warren Commission. He declined to identify the

name of the agency but indirectly described it as the investigative agency which conducts intelligence-type investigations outside the United States.

In conclusion, Mr. Morgan reiterated that he would immediately contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation if he discovered any way to reveal the full details of this matter.

In connection with the above it may be of interest to note that during 1961, an investigation was conducted concerning a violation of the Unauthorized Publication or Use of Communications Statute on the part of Arthur James Balletti, who had been arrested by local authorities in Las Vegas, Nevada, on a wire tapping charge. During the course of the Balletti investigation it was ascertained that Robert A. Maheu, a private detective, was involved. Maheu claimed he placed wire taps in behalf of CIA's efforts to obtain intelligence information in Cuba through the hoodlum element, including Sam Giancana. Maheu said he was placed in contact with Giancana in connection with these intelligence activities through John Roselli, a Los Angeles hoodlum.

A representative of the CIA stated he personally contacted Maheu during the Fall of 1960 for the purpose of using Maheu as a "cutout" in contacts with Sam Giancana in connection with CIA's clandestine efforts against Castro.

Robert F.

On May 9, 1962, former Attorney General Kennedy advised that a few days prior thereto he had been advised by CIA that Robert A. Maheu had been hired by CIA to approach Sam Giancana with a proposition of paying $150,000 to hire some gunmen to go into Cuba and kill Castro. He further stated CIA admitted having assisted Maheu in making the "bugging" installation in Las Vegas (referred to above) which uncovered this clandestine operation and for this reason CIA could not afford to have any action taken against Giancana or Maheu. Mr. Kennedy stated that upon learning CIA had not cleared its action in hiring Maheu and Giancana with the Department of Justice he issued orders that CIA should never again take such steps without first checking with the Department of Justice.